

Radnor's Lally helps U.S. win silver at Junior World Rowing Championships

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Radnor High senior Chandler Lally competed in the Junior World Rowing Championships in the Czech Republic.

RADNOR — Radnor High senior Chandler Lally recently returned from the Czech Republic, where she competed in the Junior World Rowing Championships last month as part of the USA Women's Junior National Team.

Lally stroked and steered the priority boat for US Women's Junior National team, the straight 4, which consists of four sweep rowers and no coxswain.

Her boat placed second in the World Championship, edging out Australia by .25 seconds, and was just .9 seconds behind the winning New Zealand crew in a very competitive race. The USA surged from fourth to second position in the last 900 meters of the 2,000-meter race.

Lally was a repeat member of the US Junior National Team in 2010. In 2009, she rowed in the second seat of the straight 4 boat and placed sixth in the grand final at the championship in Brive-La Gaillarde, France.

This year, the USA coaches reprioritized the boats and were able to win silver medals in both the 4- and 8+ boats, the first time in history that two US JWNT boats have medaled in the World Championships.

Selection to the US JWNT begins with an invitation to attend their national selection camp, based on the athlete's ERG scores (rowing machine times), video of their rowing technique, and their results in competition. This year, 42 girls from across the country were invited to compete for the 15 sweep rowing positions on the US JWNT.

Lally was the only girl from Pennsylvania invited to the selection camp at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., which ran June 16-July 2. Upon final selection, the team competed in the Independence Day Regatta in Philadelphia and then trained at Princeton University's Shea Rowing Center from July 5-27, before flying to the Czech Republic for the championship.

Lally started rowing in her freshman year at Radnor High under coach Megan Biging. As the seventh seat, her Freshman 8 boat team won the Stotesbury Regatta, the Dr. White Regatta, the Philadelphia City Championship and placed third at the Scholastic Rowing Athletic Association National Regatta in 2008. During her junior year, the Radnor girls' crew Varsity 8 boat had a record-setting year and placed third in the Stotesbury Regatta and second at both the Philadelphia City Championship and SRAA Nationals Regattas.

In addition to crew, Lally has been a starter on Radnor's varsity basketball team all three years and was named second-team All-Delco and second-team All-Main Line in 2010.

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